the petition filed by the All India Harijan League; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OR URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The suggestion for shifting of NDMC Auto Workshop was examined in consultation with NDMC recently. It was seen that shifting of the auto workshop would involve a cost of Rs. 93 lakhs towards construction of buildings besides the cost of alternative land which will be required in a Central locality in order to minimise the load time for vehicles.

In view of the above shifting of the workshop is considered not feasible.

(c) and (d) There is no such direction from the Supreme Court in the said petition. Hence the question of allotment of land to NDMC does not arise.

Shifting of Auto Workshop from Mandir Marg, New Delhi

3666. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the New Delhi Municipal Committee has constructed an Auto Repair Workshop covering the whole front portion of the historical Valmiki Temple at Mandir Marg, New Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the 20 feet high walls of this Auto Repair Workshop have covered the whole front portion of the temple from the side of Mandir Marg;

(c) whether Mahatma Gandhi used to live in the precincts of this temple amongst the Balmiki community and the place was visited by famous national leaders of the freedom movement for consultations with Gandhiji;

(d) whether workers of the Balmiki community have been struggling hard for the last 40 years for shifting of the Auto Workshop; and

(e) if so, the reasons why the Auto Workshop has not yet been shifted from its present location ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) :

(a) The Auto Workshop has been in existence for over three decades.

(b) A compound wall has been constructed around the Auto Repair Workshop for security reasons.

(c) Government have no specific information about Mahatma Gandhi having lived in the precincts of the Temple. However, he is reported to have stayed in the adjacent Valmiki Colony in this area.

(d) and (e) The All India Harijan League had filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court in 1986 on this matter. However, the Supreme Court did not issue any directions in regard to shifting of the Workhop from the present site, on the said petition.

Beautification and Development of Valmiki Temple Area in Mandir Marg, New Delhi

3667. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that on a petition filed by the All India Harijan League, the Supreme Court of India, in 1987, directed the New Delhi Municipal Committee to stop parking of garbage disposal vehicles in the Auto Repair Workshop constructed by NDMC in front of the historical Valmiki Temple at Mandir Marg, New Delhi;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has also directed the NDMC to take steps for the beautification and development of the temple area till the Auto Workshop was shifted from before the temple;

(c) whether NDMC has taken any steps on the directions of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the steps taken and the progress made thereof ?

THE MINISTER OR URBAN DEVELOPMENT) SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) There was no direction by the Supreme Court in the said petition regarding stopping of parking of garbage disposal vehicles in the Auto Repair Workshop nor in regard to shifting of the Workshop from the present site.